

Message Text

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO, IS

SUBJECT: U. S. CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO

REF: TEL AVIV 2558

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: DEPT HAS REQUESTED CONGRESS TO
APPROPRIATE DOLLARS 68,108,625 TO COVER ITS OBLIGATIONS TO
UNESCO FOR 1977, 1978, AND 1979. THE DEPT'S DECISION TO
REQUEST FULL FUNDING WAS BASED ON THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS
TOWARD DEPOLITICIZATION BY UNESCO SINCE THE ADOPTION OF
THE ANTI-ISRAEL ACTS BY THE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE, THE
NEED TO MAINTAIN THIS MOMENTUM THROUGH FULL U. S. PARTICI-
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PATION IN UNESCO, AND THE NEED TO INSURE THAT THE U. S.
FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THOSE UNESCO
ACTIVITIES OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THIS COUNTRY. END SUMMARY.

2. CONGRESS IS HOLDING CONCURRENT HEARINGS ON DEPT'S
FY 1978 SUPPLEMENTAL AND FY 1979 APPROPRIATION REQUESTS
WHICH, IF APPROVED, WOULD ENABLE THE U. S. TO PAY THE

BALANCE OF ITS 1977 CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 10,037,500, ITS 1978 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 27,037,500, A TAX EQUALIZATION ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLARS 200,000 FOR 1978, ITS 1979 CONTRIBUTION OF DOLLARS 29,833,625, AND A TAX EQUALIZATION ADJUSTMENT OF DOLLARS 1 MILLION FOR 1979. THE

TOTAL AMOUNT REQUESTED IS DOLLARS 68,108,625.

3. THE FIGURE FOR 1979 IS ONLY AN ESTIMATE OF WHAT THE U. S. CONTRIBUTION WILL ACTUALLY BE SINCE UNESCO'S 1979-1980 BUDGET WILL NOT BE VOTED ON UNTIL THE 20TH GENERAL CONFERENCE THIS FALL. THE 1979 TAX EQUALIZATION ADJUSTMENT FIGURE, ALSO AN ESTIMATE, IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THAT FOR 1978 OWING TO THE RISING SALARY SCALES IN THE UN SYSTEM AND THE RECENT U. S. TAX REGULATION CHANGES WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THE AMOUNT OF SALARY AN AMERICAN EMPLOYED OVERSEAS MAY DEDUCT FROM HIS REPORTABLE INCOME.

4. FYI: ACCORDING TO A UNESCO DOCUMENT LISTING CONTRIBUTIONS DUE AND RECEIVED AS AT DECEMBER 31, 1977, ISRAEL OWES DOLLARS 342,048 FOR 1975-1976 BIENNium AND DOLLARS 519,120 FOR 1977-1978. ISRAEL ALSO OWES DOLLARS 31,866 ON ITS ADVANCE TO THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND. IN ORDER FOR ISRAEL TO RETAIN ITS VOTE AT THE 1978 GENERAL CONFERENCE, IT WILL, AT THE MINIMUM, HAVE TO PAY ITS 1975-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1976 DUES PLUS ITS ADVANCE TO THE WORKING CAPITAL FUND. END FYI.

5. DEPT'S DECISION TO SEEK FULL FUNDING OF ITS UNESCO DUES WAS BASED ON THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD DEPOLITICIZATION THAT HAS BEEN MADE SINCE THE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THE NEED TO CONTINUE THAT MOMENTUM. DEPT. ALSO WISHED TO ENCOURAGE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE ORGANIZATION TO CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE U. S. IN PURSUIT OF COMMON OBJECTIVES, SUCH AS THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ISSUE, AND TO ENABLE THE U. S. TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND EFFECTIVELY IN UNESCO'S ACTIVITIES, MANY OF WHICH ARE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO THE COUNTRY.

6. DEPT. IS CONVINCED THAT IF WE DO NOT FULFILL OUR TREATY OBLIGATION TO PAY ALL OF OUR ASSESSED SHARE OF THE UNESCO BUDGET, WE WILL SEVERELY HANDICAP OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE THE UNITED STATES TO A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN UNESCO, FROM WHICH WE CAN WORK TO ACHIEVE U. S. GOALS, INCLUDING THE RECTIFICATION OF THOSE CONDITIONS WHICH WE CONTINUE TO FIND OBJECTIONABLE. NON-PAYMENT WOULD INCRASINGLY RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR

INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. IT WOULD SIGNAL A LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR THE DETERMINED EFFORTS OF DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW AND THE MANY MEMBER STATES WHICH HAVE WORKED WITH US TO ENSURE THAT POLITICALLY MOTIVATED, DIVISIVE ACTS BY CERTAIN MEMBER STATES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO GET IN THE WAY OF UNESCO'S EFFECTIVE, BUSINESSLIKE PURSUIT

OF AGREED GOALS. MOREOVER, VIEWED TOGETHER WITH OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION, IT WOULD ALSO RAISE DEEPLY DISTURBING QUESTIONS IN THE MINDS OF MANY -- AMERICANS AS WELL AS NON-AMERICANS -- ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT TO OUR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS, OR EVEN IN THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNITED NATIONS ITSELF.

7. THE SUCCESS OF THESE EFFORTS TO ISOLATE UNESCO FROM POLITICAL PASSIONS AND TO CREATE A NEW, CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE IS EVIDENT IN THE FOLLOWING BRIEF SUMMARY OF WHAT THE ORGANIZATION HAS ACHIEVED IN THIS RESPECT DURING THE PAST YEAR:

-- ISRAEL CONTINUES TO ENJOY FULL MEMBERSHIP IN THE ORGANIZATION AND IS INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL CONFERENCES OF DIRECT CONCERN TO THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP, TO WHICH ISRAEL NOW BELONGS.

-- DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW HAS WORKED BEHIND THE SCENES WITH AFRICAN DELEGATIONS TO SUPPORT MODERATE VOICES IN THE ORGANIZATION, AND WITH ARAB MEMBERS TO ELIMINATE OR SOFTEN POLITICAL RHETORIC.

-- NO RESOLUTIONS OR ACTIONS INIMICAL TO ISRAEL WERE ADOPTED AT EITHER OF LAST YEAR'S SPRING OR FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD SESSIONS.

-- A SOVIET INITIATIVE AT THE OCTOBER 1977 MEETING OF THE BOARD, AIMED AT EMBARRASSING ISRAEL BY REPEATING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION'S CRITICISMS OF ISRAELI ACTIONS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, WAS VIGOROUSLY AND SUCCESSFULLY OPPOSED BY AFRICAN AND OTHER MEMBERS WHO DENOUNCED IT FOR ENCOURAGING CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN COOPERATION.

-- ON JANUARY 19, 1978, THE HUMAN RIGHTS WORKING PARTY CREATED BY THE SPRING SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, AS A RESULT OF OUR INITIATIVE, SENT TO THE NEXT MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD, IN APRIL, A COMPLETE SET OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR STRENGTHENING UNESCO'S PROCEDURES FOR PROCESSING HUMAN RIGHTS COMPLAINTS. OUR DELEGATION SCORED A SUCCESS, UNPRECEDENTED IN THE UN SYSTEM" IN GETTING A CONSENSUS AGREEMENT, EQUALLY BINDING ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY, INCLUDING SOVIET AND POLISH REPRESENTATIVES, REQUIRING THAT CHARGES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY MEMBER STATES (SUCH AS THOSE ALLEGED TO HAVE OCCURRED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES) BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME "DUE PROCESS" -- AGREED RULES THAT ASSURE FAIR AND EXPERT EXAMINATION OF ALL THE RELEVANT FACTS -- THAT WILL BE

APPLIED TO INDIVIDUAL CASES.

-- THE DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE MASS MEDIA, WHICH WE STRONGLY OPPOSED BECAUSE OF ITS UNACCEPTABLE REFERENCES TO ELEMENTS OF STATE CONTROL, IS BEING REDRAFTED AND THE NEW TEXT IS EXPECTED TO HAVE ELIMINATED ITS MOST OBJECTIONABLE PROVISIONS. KEY AMERICAN SPOKESMEN FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS WERE CONSULTED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND HIS STAFF IN THE REDRAFTING PROCESS.

-- THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS ALSO APPOINTED A 16-MEMBER COMMISSION, WHICH INCLUDES THE DISTINGUISHED DEAN OF THE COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, ELIE ABEL, TO STUDY THE BROAD RANGE OF COMMUNICATION CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN TODAY'S WORLD. THIS BODY HAS THE CAPACITY TO DO SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE ABOUT THE LEGITIMATE GRIEVANCES OF THE THIRD WORLD CAUSED BY THEIR UNDERDEVELOPED SYSTEMS OF MASS COMMUNICATION. WE EXPECT THAT THIS EFFORT, WHICH THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INSISTED BE KEPT COMPLETELY FREE FROM THE POLITICALLY CONTENTIOUS DRAFT DECLARATION, WILL PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE NEGATIVE AND RESTRICTIVE APPROACH TO THE "GLOBAL INFORMATION IMBALANCE" IN THE PAST.

8. IO ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES STATED ON FEBRUARY 21

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BEFORE THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS THAT:

"WE BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO CLOSE THE DOOR ON THE DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN UNESCO AND THE UNITED STATES AND FOR THIS COUNTRY TO RESUME ITS POSITION AS A FULLY RESPONSIBLE AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBER. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT PERIOD IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF UNESCO. MANY ISSUES

ARE BEING RAISED OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, AND OUR FULL INVOLVEMENT IS VERY MUCH REQUIRED. ALL TOLD, WE THINK SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, AND WE HOPE THAT THE CONGRESS WILL AGREE TO SUPPLY THE FUNDS REQUESTED AND JOIN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH IN RESTORING THIS COUNTRY TO ITS ACCUSTOMED STATUS WITHIN UNESCO."

9. FYI: DEPT. IS WELL AWARE THAT MANY OF UNESCO ACHIEVEMENTS DETAILED PARA 7 DO NOT RELATE DIRECTLY TO ISRAEL; HOWEVER, THEY ARE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR ISRAELAS WELL AS FOR U.S. WE ARE ALSO AWARE THAT TWO OF THE ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIONS OF THE 1974 GENERAL CONFERENCE HAVE NOT BEEN REVERSED BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE AND ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE, BARRING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT OR A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE UN SYSTEM'S MODUS OPERANDI. THAT JUDGMENT IS BASIS FOR OUR CONCLUSION THAT WHAT WE CAN REALISTICALLY EXPECT FROM UNESCO (NO ADDITIONAL ANTI-ISRAEL ACTIONS,

INCLUDING REJECTION OF ANY EFFORTS TO INJECT UNGA RES. 3379, COUPLED WITH M'BOW AND AFRICAN SUPPORT ON TICKLISH MASS MEDIA ISSUES) WOULD BE BETTER SERVED BY OUR RESUMING FULL FUNDING THAN BY CONTINUING TO HOLD "UNESCO'S" (I.E. DG M'BOW'S) FEET TO THE FIRE. END FYI. VANCE

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